

AAU & USVBA NATIONALS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



Left to right: Paul MacLaughlin, Colin Chock, Tony Crabb, Chris McLachlin, Fred Hiapo, Dodge Parker, official, Wally Young, Chris Crabb, Mike McMahon and Ron Sorrell. Buzz Taylor, St. Louis, Mo.

Volleyball

By Chris McLachlin

OUTRIGGER VOLLEYBALLERS FINISH 2nd AND 5th ON MAINLAND TRIP

On May 1, the Outrigger Volleyball Team headed for St. Louis, Missouri to defend their National AAU Championship. And they came within a whisker of winning it an unprecedented third straight year.

Playing in a round-robin pool the first day, Outrigger split with Olympic Club of San Francisco, split with Dallas, lost two to Fort Wayne, beat St. Louis YMCA twice, and beat Kenneth Allen #2 twice to qualify for the final round Sunday. The grand old Masters (35 and over) team, plus rookie **Jimmy Pietsch**, finished in a tie for fourth in their pool, then lost to Kentucky in a playoff to miss qualifying for Sunday's finals.

Outrigger #1 drew Kenneth Allen #1 on Sunday and won 15-7 in the third after losing the first game. They then beat Fort Wayne 15-9 in the third to qualify for the finals against the All Armed Services team.

Outrigger won the first game 15-5, lead 9-3 in the 2nd, then the roof caved in! They lost the 2nd game 15-11, were losing the third 13-6, then finally succumbed in a real thriller, 16-14.

In that tournament, it was **Chris Crabb's** steady hitting. **Mike McMahon's** serving, **Colin Chock's** blocking and dinking, **Dodge Parker's** setting, and **Tony Crabb's** blocking that pulled the team through to the finals.

Photos: Beth Hollinger



Paul MacLaughlin hitting as Fred Hiapo covers.



Colin Chock, Tony Crabb and Fred Hiapo form a wall against CISCO's.

As the team headed to the National USVBA Championship in Knoxville, Tennessee, hopes were high for a win in the open and a win in the Masters Division. Instead, they had to settle for a fifth in a field of 38 and second in a field of 16.

The Masters, occasionally led by **Tom Haine's** (Alias Gimpy) backcourt last play, but more often spurred on by the cagey hitting of **Ron Sorrell** and **Bill Heilbron**, had to do things the hard way. They lost a heart breaker in the first round to Kenneth Allen, then went all the way through the loser's bracket, only to lose again to a fresh rested Kenneth Allen team. Noted for their play in the tourney; first team All Star, **Bill Baird**, who jumped, blocked, dug, and set his way nearly into the Hall of Fame; **Fred Noa**, outstanding setter, server and backcourt man; and **Colin Chock**, great blocker and spiker. **Roger Clissold**, spiker, and coach **Ron Sorrell** made second team, and **Bill Heilbron** made honorable mention. **Mark Lawson** and **Wally Young** also played well as substitutes.

The open team polished off Knoxville YMCA the first day, then rested. They beat Dallas YMCA on Friday morning, May 9, and whipped UCLA in the afternoon to reach the semi-finals.

Saturday morning they bit the dust and lost to an excellent Cisco's of Santa Monica, California team. Then later that day they lost to second place finisher Olympic Club of San Francisco. Their fifth place finish was admirable but quite a ways from their expectations. Los Angeles YMCA won with a Olympic star studded team.

The Hawaii women's team salvaged the trip by finishing a surprising second to Long Beach. Sharon Peterson won most valuable player, and Fanny Hopeau and Beth Hollinger joined her on the first team All American list.

Church College of Hawaii, with ex Outrigger player **Pete Velasco**, finished third in the collegian as Pete once again made first team All American.

All in all, we are proud of the Hawaiian teams, especially our Outrigger gang, and we feel they represented us well in Knoxville.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank coach **Ron Sorrell** for his efforts, **Mark Lawson** for his stats and computer, **Wally Young** for his mind-boggling responsibilities as team manager, and finally . . . THANK YOU MEMBERS OF OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB for supporting us all year, sending us to the Nationals, and letting us represent the finest sports club around!



Dodge Parker and Tony Crabb blocking.



Tony Crabb and Mike McMahon blocking.



Dodge Parker hitting.